

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) A spindle unit for a machine tool, comprising:
 - a drive unit having a drive shaft,
 - a spindle head assembly constructed to receive a tool and having a hollow spindle head shaft which is driven by the drive unit, said spindle head assembly being constructed for removal from the drive unit;
 - a gear mechanism arranged between the drive unit and the spindle head assembly, wherein the gear mechanism is constructed for at least partial connection to the spindle head assembly; and
 - a shifting unit for axially moving the drive shaft in such a way that in a first position the drive shaft is ~~connected by interference fit~~ forced into engagement with the spindle head assembly through intervention of the gear mechanism, and in a second position is ~~directly connected by interference fit~~ forced into direct engagement with the spindle head assembly.
2. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 1, wherein the gear mechanism is constructed to include a planetary gear mechanism.
3. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 1, wherein the drive unit includes an electric motor having a rotor mounted on the drive shaft.

4. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 3, wherein the rotor is shrink-fitted on the drive shaft.
5. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 3, wherein the electric motor includes a stator which completely surrounds the rotor in the first and second positions of the drive shaft.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 1, and further comprising an axially displaceable bearing assembly for support of the drive shaft.
8. (Currently amended) The spindle unit of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 7, wherein the drive shaft has opposite ends, said bearing assembly having a bearing sleeve for support of one end of the drive shaft, and another bearing sleeve for support of the other end of the drive shaft.
9. (Original) The spindle unit of claim 1, wherein the shifting unit is constructed for operation by one of hydraulic means, pneumatic means, and electromechanical means.
10. -12. (Canceled)

13. (New) The spindle unit of claim 2, wherein the planetary gear mechanism includes planetary wheels non-rotatably connected to the spindle head shaft of the spindle head assembly, and a hollow wheel disposed between the planetary wheels.
14. (New) The spindle unit of claim 13, wherein the planetary gear mechanism includes a sun wheel mounted to an end face of the drive shaft in confronting relationship to the spindle head shaft for engagement with the planetary wheels.